



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

TWO PADUCAH DRUG DEALERS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

PADUCAH, KY - **Lawrence Murff**, age 53, of 1101 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Paducah, Kentucky, was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment, and **Peter E. Gray**, age 51, of 3510 Maxon Road, Paducah, Kentucky, was sentenced to 7 years and 8 months imprisonment, in United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky, for conspiring to possess with intent to distribute crack-cocaine, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Thomas Russell, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Murff and Gray to 4 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

U.S. Attorney Huber praised the special partnership program of the ATF and the Paducah Police Department saying that it “allows local drug dealers to be targeted and helps reduce violence in Paducah.”

This case was developed with a partnership of the Paducah Police Department and targeted local crack dealers in Paducah. Both Watson and Gray have prior state court convictions for trafficking in crack-cocaine and have been operating in Paducah for the past several years.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives utilized a confidential

informant to make 4 controlled buys of crack-cocaine from co-defendants Gray and Watson between February 2006 and April 2007 in McCracken County, Kentucky.

With this evidence, in September, 2006, ATF obtained federal search warrants for Watson's home, and with cooperation of the Paducah Police Department, and for the residence Watson was renting to Defendant Murff who cooked the cocaine into "crack" for Watson. A search of Watson's home revealed 18.9 grams of crack-cocaine. ATF also seized more than an estimated \$100,000 of Watson's personal property including jewelry, tools and electronics that had been purchased with drug proceeds as set forth in Count 3 of the Indictment.

Investigation revealed that over 18 months, Murff had cooked quantities of powder cocaine into crack-cocaine for co-defendant Watson on approximately ten occasions. Watson would give Murff user amounts of crack-cocaine in exchange for cooking crack-cocaine for Watson. Lab reports confirm that the total amount of crack-cocaine recovered by law enforcement during the conspiracy time frame set forth in the Indictment was 21.62 net grams. The crack-cocaine recovered in this matter has a street value of over \$2,100.

Murff had plead guilty on March 11, 2008, Gray had plead guilty on January 24, 2008 and co-defendant James Fitzgerald Watson had plead guilty on March 12, 2008 and is scheduled for sentencing on July 29, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michele Thielhorn. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division/Paducah Satellite Office conducted the investigation in partnership with the Paducah Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

###